

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were under appeal to the Board of Appeals. After Appellants Brief was filed, the Examiner re-opened prosecution and withdrew the earlier rejections entirely. Now, claims 3-6 and 8 have been objected to but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9-19 have been rejected. In response, claims 3 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form, and claims 1, 10-13, 17 and 19 have been amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-19 remain pending. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 3-6 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, claims 3 and 8 have been rewritten. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-6 and 8 are now allowable.

Specifically, claim 3 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2 from which claim 3 depended previously. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 is now presented in proper independent form and should be allowed.

Claim 4 depends from claim 3, claim 5 depends from claim 4, and claim 6 depends from claim 5. Accordingly, claims 4, 5 and 6 now should be allowed together with rewritten claim 3 from which they depend.

Claim 8 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 1, from which claim 8 depended previously. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 8 is now presented in proper independent form and should be allowed.

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 9-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,298,308 (“Reid”) in view of an article by Jay Galasso, entitled “Business Goals, End-Users Must Drive Information Systems Selection”, Pulp & Paper, San Francisco,

Nov. 1998, Vol. 72, Issue 11, page 50 ("Galasso"). In response, claims 1, 10, 17 and 19 have been amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 10, 17 and 19 recite an invention not taught by the prior art and should be allowed, together with claims 2, 7, 9, 11-16 and 18 which are dependent therefrom.

Reid teaches a diagnostic network 10 at a site 12, such as an office building, manufacturing facility, power plant or the like, for conducting predictive maintenance on machines 14. Network 10 includes at least one local expert 16 coupled to machine 14 for receiving predictive maintenance information, such as vibration data (column 4, lines 63-65). The local experts are automated data collectors and analyzers configured to acquire and analyze vibration data substantially continuously from one or more machines located at the site (column 2, lines 34-40). The local expert 16 can be located away from the machine it monitors, to avoid dirt, debris and the like, and can be connected to sensors 18 via a hardwired cable, an optical cable link, an infrared link, a radio link or otherwise wirelessly (column 5, lines 30-40). Data can be transmitted from the receiver via an e-mail server 26 to selected individuals appropriate for receiving the information (column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 14). Upon diagnosing a problem, the local expert 16 notifies appropriate personnel via e-mail, pager and/or causing a network event (column 6, lines 40-44). Each local expert 16 also may be connected via a modem to another network and a central monitoring location 34 outside of the local network for transmitting the data to the outside network at which more detailed analysis can occur (column 7, lines 23-38). From central monitoring location 34, return communications can be generated to control operation of the local experts 16 to perform custom testing (column 7, lines 47-60).

On page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledges that Reid does not disclose a stock preparation monitoring system, a stock preparation apparatus, a method of monitoring a

stock preparation system, a method of monitoring a physical parameter of a wear part in a system for making paper or processing a fiber suspension, or any specific reference to a stock preparation apparatus or a paper machine.

Galasso is cited for teaching the use of computerized maintenance management systems, including using real-time data and analysis of vibration or other diagnostic measurements for preventative or predictive maintenance in paper manufacturing facilities, from stock preparation to shipping.

The Examiner notes that independent claims 1, 10, 17 and 19 as presented previously, recited the alternative elements of analyzing the remote signal, transmitting a state notification, transmitting a price quote or transmitting a shipment notification. Since these elements were listed in the alternative, the Examiner found the recitation to be met by the teaching in Reid for analyzing the remote signal at central monitoring location 34, and by the teaching in Reid of transmitting an analysis from central monitoring location 34. Neither of the cited references teaches the alternative elements of transmitting a price quote or transmitting a shipment notification.

Independent claims 1, 10, 17 and 19 have been amended to delete the alternative elements of analyzing the remote signal and transmitting a state notification. Accordingly, claims 1, 10 and 19, as amended, now in part recite:

“...at least one of:

transmitting a price quote to said remote unit via said second data link and said first data link; and

transmitting a shipment notification to said remote unit via said second data link and said first data link indicating a part has been shipped.”

Claim 17, as amended recites in part:

“...at least one of:

transmitting a price quote; and

transmitting a shipment notification.”

It is respectfully submitted that the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a stock preparation monitoring system (claim 1), a method of monitoring a stock preparation system (claim 10), a method of monitoring a physical parameter of a wear part (claim 17) or a stock preparation monitoring system (claim 19) including either transmitting a price quote or transmitting a shipment notification, as now recited in the independent claims.

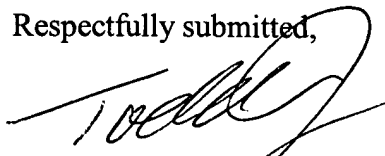
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 10, 17 and 19 should now be allowed. Applicants further submit that claims 2, 7 and 9, which depend from amended claim 1; claims 11-16 which depend from amended claim 10; and 18 which depends from amended claim 17 also should be allowed together with the amended claims from which each depends.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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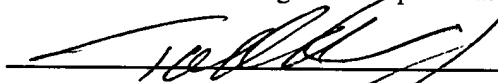
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: March 17, 2005.

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Name of Registered Representative



Signature

March 17, 2005

Date

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